



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Press Release

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Idaho Honey Production Increased 32 Percent

Idaho honey production in 2009 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 4.74 million pounds, a 32 percent increase from 2008, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Honey producing colonies are estimated at 103,000 colonies, up 13,000 colonies from last year. Yield per colony averaged 46 pounds, up six pounds from 2008. Producer honey stocks were 1.71 million pounds on December 15, 2009, an increase of 18 percent from the previous year. The average honey price per pound is \$1.45, down one cent from a year ago.

Nationally, Honey production in 2009 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 144 million pounds, down 12 percent from 2008. There were 2.46 million colonies producing honey in 2009, up 5 percent from 2008. Yield per colony averaged 58.5 pounds, down 16 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2008, and is the lowest yield since 1989. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, yields per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 37.2 million pounds on December 15, 2009, down 27 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2009 to 144.5 cents, up 2 percent from 142.1 cents in 2008. U.S. and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, cooperatives, and private channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2008 crop reflect honey sold in 2008 and 2009. Some 2008 crop honey was sold in 2009, which caused some revisions to the 2008 crop prices.

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